# MINUTES October 13, 2010

Location: North Dale Recreation Center

MEMBERS PRESENT: Carrie Wasley, Susan Bishop, Jonathan Carter, Dave Haley, Andy Trcka,

Erick Goodlow and Paul Middleton

MEMBERS ABSENT: Betsy Mowry

STAFF PRESENT: Mike Hahm, Diana Berchem, Bob Smith, Kari Denissen-Cunnien, Jody

Martinez, Michelle Furrer, Cy Kosel

GUESTS: Lynne Ogawa, Kevin Huepenbecker, John McCormick, Pete Bolstad,

Lawrence Coleman, Amy Dresch, Bill Sylvester, Marsha Milgrom, Sally

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# 1. AGENDA, MINUTES, INTRODUCTION, ANNOUNCEMENTS

a. The meeting was called to order by Chair Wasley at 6:30 pm.

- b. Commissioner Middleton moved to approve the agenda. Commissioner Carter 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. The vote was 8 to 0 in favor with one Commissioner absent.
- **c.** Commissioner Haley moved to approve the September 2010 minutes. Commissioner Middleton 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. The vote was 8 to 0 in favor with one Commissioner absent.

### 2. ACTION ITEMS

### a. Resolution #10-17 Clear Wireless at Eastview Recreation Center

Bob Smith briefed the Commission on the 15-year lease agreement with Clear Wireless to place a 100' communication tower at the Eastview Recreation Center. The tower replaces an existing light pole in the northwest corner of the recreation center property. The lease agreement states that Clear Wireless pays an annual rent of \$18,000.00 to the Department of Parks and Recreation. Fees will benefit programming in the east service area of the City. Community meetings were held through District 1 Community Council to discuss the installation with positive feedback received.

It was recommended to approve entering into the agreement.

Commissioner Carter motioned to approve Resolution #10-17. Commissioner Goodlow 2nd the motion. The vote was 8 to 0 in favor with one Commissioner absent.

### b. Resolution #10-20 T-Mobile at Edgcumbe Recreation Center

Bob Smith briefed the Commission on the 15-year lease agreement with T-Mobile for the installation and operation of communication equipment which would be located between the fenced tennis courts at Edgcumbe Recreation Center. The placement of this equipment also constitutes a diversion of park land of 375 sq. ft. in accordance with Section 13.01/1 of the City Charter. As stated in the lease agreement, T-Mobile is required to pay an annual payment of over \$16,000.00 payable to the Department of Parks and Recreation.

Fees generated will benefit recreation center programming and operations. Community meetings were held through the Macalester/Groveland District Council 14 to discuss the agreement with positive feedback received.

It was recommended to approve entering into the agreement.

Commissioner Anderson motioned to approve Resolution #10-20. Commissioner Middleton 2nd the motion. The vote was 8 to 0 in favor with one Commissioner absent.

c. Resolution #10-21 Parkland Diversion at Trillium Park/New Harmony Care Center Director Hahm introduced the Trillium Park Nature Sanctuary as an acquired piece of undeveloped land located near Hwy 35, Jackson Street, Maryland Avenue and the BNSF railway tracks. The Department of Parks and Recreation have begun preliminary phases of park development. As a result, encroachment onto the property by neighboring businesses were found.

Bob Smith further explained that New Harmony Care Center has a parking lot that infringes on a strip of park land. This land has allowed for access to their parking lot from Geranium Avenue. New Harmony has requested a parkland diversion of 1,260 sq. ft. to be used as a driving lane to their facility. This driving lane allows for emergency vehicle access.

It was recommended to approve the diversion of park land as it would not affect future development plans of the park.

Commissioner Carter motioned to approve Resolution #10-21. Commissioner Haley 2nd the motion. The vote was 8 to 0 in favor with one Commissioner absent.

d. **Resolution #10-22 Parkland Diversion at Trillium Park/Tilsner Carton Company**Bob Smith indicated that, like the New Harmony Care Center, the Tilsner Carton Company also encroaches on Trillium Park. The Tilsner Carton Company has requested for a parkland diversion of 5,700 sq. ft. to be used for parking of tractor trailers and other vehicles required for their business.

It was determined that the park land can be diverted without any impact on future plans of the park and approval was recommended.

Commissioner Trcka motioned to approve Resolution #10-21. Commissioner Goodlow 2nd the motion. The vote was 8 to 0 in favor with one Commissioner absent.

## e. Resolution #10-19 Merriam Park Concept Plan

Jody Martinez explained that the Merriam Park Concept Plan was the result of collaboration with landscape architect students from the MN Student Chapter of the American society of Landscape Architects to work on a "visioning" plan to prepare a master concept plan for Merriam Park. She said Parks and Recreation staff and these students communicated on the preliminary concepts which is reflected in the final document. It is considered an illustrative concept only making it ready for any funding opportunities.

Jody recommended the concept plan for Merriam Park be approved.

Commissioner Carter motioned to approve Resolution #10-19. Commissioner Anderson 2nd the motion. The vote was 8 to 0 in favor with one Commissioner absent.

#### 3. DISCUSSION ITEMS

#### a. Youth Commission

Kari Denission-Cunnien, Youth Commission Coordinator, provided an update on the status of the Youth Commission pointing out key strategies and what is in store for the future, including the establishment of Learning Campuses.

# b. Como Regional Park - Parking Implementation Plan Overview

Michelle Furrer, Como Park Zoo and Conservatory Campus Manager, gave a brief overview of the parking plan. She also indicated that more time is required as part of the review process to allow opportunity for interested groups to comment, including City officials. The plan will be addressed again as an action item at the November Parks Commission meeting scheduled for Wednesday, November 10.

Visitors were also in attendance with interest in the plan. Chair Wasley allowed time for comments:

John McCormick – offered comments in opposition to the potential site of a parking lot at the corner of Hamline Avenue and Arlington Avenue.

Kevin Huepenbecker – offered comments in opposition to the potential site of a parking lot at the corner of Hamline Avenue and Arlington Avenue.

Pete Bolstad, Chair to District 10 Ad Hoc Committee – requested an opportunity for public comment at the November meeting when the plan will be voted on. Chair Wasley encouraged visitors to submit their comments in writing.

Marsha Milgrom – requested clarification on parking/circulator statistics for Como Park.

### c. Parks and Recreation System Plan Update

Bob Smith introduced Greg Ingraham of HKGI, Inc., the consultant assisting with the Parks and Recreation System Plan. Mr. Ingraham gave a brief overview of the plan and future expectations. The Parks and Recreation System Plan will be presented again in its final version as an Action Item at the December Parks and Recreation Commission meeting scheduled for December 8. If approved, it will be presented to the City Council in January 2011.

### d. EAB Report and Evaluation

Cy Kosel gave a brief update to the Emerald Ash Borer Management plan. He indicated that the infestation remains in the same relative areas at this time last year but emphasized that the Forestry Section will continue to implement the response plan. He provided handouts showing specific locations of concern as well as a summary of the management plan, highlighting adjustments in 2011 including limited pesticide use and assessing individual trees in structured removal areas.

### 4. ORGANIZATIONAL ITEMS

# a. Committee Assignments

Director Hahm indicated that the Dog Park subcommittee is open for a Parks Commission representative. Commissioner Anderson volunteered to be that person. Since Commissioner Mowry has been involved with the Dog Park Committee, Director Hahm recommended she brief Commissioner Anderson.

Commission Trcka mentioned that he is open to be on any new committee. Director Hahm indicated that there may be a Mounds Park Master Plan committee in the future which Commission Trcka showed interest in.

Commissioners Bishop and Carter are no longer involved with any committees as the committees they were members of have dissolved. Commissioner Anderson also indicated she would be interested in being involved with any committee relating to Victoria Park.

#### 5. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The written Director's Report was reviewed.

**NRPA Congress** - Director Hahm mentioned there were opportunities to volunteer at the NRPA Congress

**Budget Update** – Director Hahm noted that there are no updates on the proposed 2011 budget.

### 6. SUBCOMMITTEE AND TASK FORCE REPORTS

- a. Dog Park Commissioner Mowry was not in attendance to give an update.
- b. Second Shift Commissioner Mowry was not in attendance to give an update.
- c. **Blooming St. Paul** Commissioner Middleton provided a quick overview of the Blooming St. Paul season. An electric water scooter was acquired and \$10,000 was received to fix public art. The Blooming St. Paul Awards is scheduled for Monday, January 24.
- d. **Transportation Advisory Board** Commissioner Trcka said that the Committee is now active and he plans to attend meetings. The last meeting discussed the expansion of the Minneapolis Greenway with St. Paul which eventually will include a permanent green urban non-motorized trail and new public parks. The area of St. Paul involves the Ayd Mill Road Corridor.
- e. **Tree Advisory Panel** Commissioner Goodlow gave a brief overview of the September TAP meeting he attended. Topics of interest were: the First Annual Landmark Tree and EAB Tree Trimmer licensure within the City of Saint Paul.
- f. Ramsey Conservation District No Report.
- g. **Phalen/Keller Master Plan** Commissioner Bishop and Carter both indicated that the Phalen/Keller Master Plan Committee is now dissolved.
- h. Ford Initiative Chair Wasley said that everything is on schedule.

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i. **Other Reports** – Commissioner Trcka mentioned he provided information via email relating to a couple future high-profile MnDOT projects: the Layfayette Bridge Replacement and Reworking of the I-35E/Cayuga

# 7. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Middleton and was  $2^{nd}$  by Commissioner Carter. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.